

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul And the Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel

18th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, Archbishop of Philadelphia

November 28, 2021

Parish Mission Statement

With Jesus Christ as our Head and Foundation, the Cathedral Parish of Saints Peter and Paul forms a vibrant Roman Catholic community in Center City and serves all those who come to the Cathedral Basilica, the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Our parish community professes our Catholic Faith, ministers to others and welcomes all, as rooted in the Word of God and the celebration of the Sacraments of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Adopted by the Parish Council, August 10, 2021

Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill - Rector

Reverend Monsignor Arthur Rodgers - Rector Emeritus

Reverend Matthew K. Biedrzycki - Parochial Vicar

Reverend Monsignor Louis D'Addezio - Priest in Residence

Deacon Jesús M. Burgos - Permanent Deacon

Sr. Eleanor McCann, R.S.M. - Pastoral Associate

Sr. Mary Luchia, P.V.M.I. - Parish Evangelization

Sr. Mary Raphael Paradis, R.S.M. - Outreach Coordinator

Charlene Angelini - Director of Cathedral Parish Music

Mark Loria - Principal Organist

The Cathedral Shop is open

Wed. 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM / Sat. 11:00 AM - 5:15 PM

Sun. 10:30 AM - 6:30 PM / 215-665-9032

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul

@CathedralPhila  

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:15 PM Anticipated Mass
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM in Basilica
12:30 PM Spanish in Cathedral Chapel
(Santa Misa en español, en la Capilla)
6:30 PM in Basilica

Weekdays: 7:15 AM, 12:05 PM in Cathedral Chapel

Saturdays: 12:05 PM in Cathedral Chapel

Holy Days: See website

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE SCHEDULE

Sunday: 9:00 AM and 5:30 PM in Basilica
12:00 PM (español) en la Capilla

Weekdays: 11:30 AM in Basilica

Saturday: 4:15 PM in Basilica

Please contact the Parish Office to arrange for the:
**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE,
SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK,
AND HOLY COMMUNION OF THE SICK
AND HOMEBOUND**

Advent

**Our Lord
Jesus,
Light in the
Darkness**

©JPPC

Parish Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

1723 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 • 215-561-1313

www.cathedralphila.org • info@cathedralphila.org

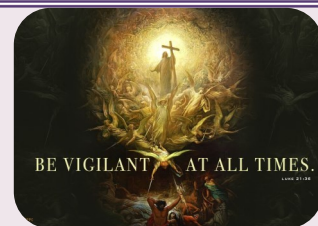
Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel <https://www.saintkatharinedrexelshrine.com/>



First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 28, 2021

*"Show us, Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation."
R. Alleluia, alleluia." PS 85:8*



November 27, Saturday, Weekday

12:05 Susan Lott
5:15 For the Holy Souls

November 28 First Sunday of Advent

8:00 For the People of the Parish
9:30 James & Elizabeth Grady
11:00 Rev. George Hosea
12:30 Guadalupe Piña Rios
6:30 Intentions of Lila Oliver

November 29, Monday, Advent Weekday

7:15 Barbara Salerno
12:05 Rocco Buttofoco

November 30, Tuesday

St. Andrew
7:15 For the Holy Souls
12:05 Intentions of Steve Jun

December 1, Wednesday, Advent Weekday

7:15 Robert Zambrano
12:05 Intentions of Chico
Guzman Family

December 2, Thursday, Advent Weekday

7:15 Joseph A. Laskowski
12:05 Intentions entrusted to
St. Katharine Drexel

December 3, Friday

St. Francis Xavier
7:15 Essie Mae Rubin
12:05 Mary Harvey

December 4, Saturday, Advent Weekday

St. John Damascene
12:05 James Hennelly
5:15 Jim Hennelly

December 5 Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 For the People of the Parish
9:30 Lawrence J. Rocco
11:00 Angelo Pagnotti
12:30 Gregorio Gonzalez
6:30 Irene Lux

Dear Parishioners,

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the first day of the new Liturgical Year. In the Holy Gospel (see Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36) we hear on this first day of Advent that our redemption is at hand! This wonderful announcement helps us to enter into this holy time with a focus on Jesus as our Savior and Redeemer. Jesus was born in Bethlehem to go to the cross in Jerusalem. I encourage you not to let Advent be simply a backdrop to all the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparation. Rather, let us listen carefully to the Sacred Scriptures and prayers at the Masses for Advent with an ear for the Lord's own instruction to better prepare interiorly for him to dwell more fully in our hearts.

The Annual Forty Hours Devotion takes place this Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, the first three days of Advent. Please see the insert in this edition of the Parish Bulletin for the complete schedule of the Forty Hours Devotion and the opportunity to sign up for an hour of adoration. This Devotion gives us the opportunity to pause, to reflect and to pray. We pause from the busyness of our lives and spend time with our Lord truly present to us in his holy Body and Blood. We reflect on the gift without equal from Almighty God, the Holy Eucharist—the saving Sacrifice of his Son—that brings us the constant graces of redemption. We pray—we adore the Lord—to praise him and to unite ourselves with him as we live our daily Christian lives. Please join us for the Forty Hours Devotion!

This Monday, November 29, 2021, the priests of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will gather with Archbishop Perez for the annual Day of Sanctification for Priests at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. Pope Saint John Paul II called for this annual gathering of the Bishop with his priests to pray together and to commit to a holy way of life in the service of the Church. All the faithful are encouraged to pray for their priests with the same intention. When Pope Saint John Paul II first established the Day of Sanctification, he did so in conjunction with the June Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. The priest is to love with the Heart of Christ those to whom he is sent to serve.

The Giving Tree is well underway. This Advent practice brings great joy to so many of the needy in our area at Christmas Time. It is also possible to participate virtually in the Giving Tree by sending gift cards for various stores and shops directly to the Cathedral Rectory.

Next Sunday, the Parish Calendars will be distributed for 2022. You are welcome to take an extra calendar for anyone you know who is homebound in your neighborhood.

Next Sunday, the second collection will be directed to the national collection for the retirement fund for religious. You can mail your Sunday offerings to the Cathedral Parish Office or make use of the many ways to give electronically. Please see <http://cathedralphila.org/donate/>. Thank you so very much for your goodness and generosity to the Cathedral Parish.

God bless you,
Father Dennis Gill
Rector





PRAYER | PARTICIPATION | GENEROSITY

Let us prepare our hearts during this time of Advent to welcome the Messiah. His mother, Mary, the woman of the YES, made the plan of God her own without reservation. Let us ask Mary to become a clear light for our steps and the highest model for our inspiration.

The spirit of giving is most evident during the Advent season. Please consider a gift to the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul through your will or a planned gift.

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Pray for us.
And let us remember to always pray for each other!*

The offertory collection for Sunday 11/21/2021 will be posted on a future edition of the parish bulletin.

Average/week for the month of October (Electronic giving):

Online	\$2,744
Text-to-Give	20
Total	\$2,764

**We hope that your generosity will exceed
\$10,000 this week.** Thank you!

Please consider a gift to support the good works of our Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul.

- You are invited to become a member of our parish family and take part in our ministries, programs, events, and worship. Please speak with Father Gill, Father Biedrzycki, Deacon Burgos or Sr. Eleanor McCann after any Sunday Mass and one of them can help you register
- Planned Gifts** – call and leave a message for Rose at 215-561-1313, so she may discuss with you long-term ways that may be best for you such as annuities, life insurance, stock, estate planning and memorial gifts
- Text to give** anytime, especially for your Sunday Mass offering – text “Cathedral” to 215-709-9955
- Venmo us** @cathedralbasilica
- Donate on-line** at <http://cathedralphila.org/donate/> or scan this QR code:



LIVE STREAMED SUNDAY MASS AT 11:00 AM

Click **Here**,

or go to: <https://vimeo.com/event/17522> **Worship**

What's Happening at the Parish Outside the Liturgical Schedule

- November 28** Official Launch of Nothing Compares initiative
Annual Eucharistic Devotion
- November 29** Annual Eucharistic Devotion
- December 1** Consecration to St. Joseph, 7PM, Basilica. See p.5
- December 2** Perpetual Novena to St. Katharine Drexel, following the 7:15 AM and 12:05 PM Masses.
Catechetical Session, 7PM, NR
- December 3** Divine Mercy Chaplet, 3PM, Zoom



Prayer for your first week of Advent

Dear Lord, you are our hope in our challenging world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what is really important in our lives. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen

Adapted from DynamicCatholic.org

CATECHETICAL SESSION FOR ADULTS

-Adult faith formation-

**The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick
Holy Viaticum**

Thursday, December 2, 2021, 7:00 PM

Meeting in the Neumann Room

The weekly catechetical session is primarily for the adults among us who are preparing to receive the Easter Sacraments. However, **anyone** interested in the topic for better understanding and faith formation is most welcome to attend. Anyone, especially our parishioners, seeking more information on the reception of the Sacraments or assisting as a sponsor, please call the Parish Office at 215-561-1313 or email Father Dennis Gill at fr.dgill@archphila.org

Please remember these parishioners and friends of the Cathedral Parish in your prayers/ Ora por los enfermos:

Loyalty, Lucila C. Castor, Mark Louie Castor, Lauren Buckley, Judy Miller, Marie Rizzi, Daniel Damon, Nancy, Jacqueline and her intentions, Anthony Pelle, Jr., Baby Ava Hope, David Blue, Jeannette Argir, Judy Day, Wally Dalton, Baby Benjamin Summers, Eileen Maher, Carmine Meadows, April De Matto, Jim Mace Thompson, Levi Oattes, Rose McKenna, Sue Del Biondo, Paul Fischer, Valente family, Marlene Cinclair, Gloria Quici, Frank Munafò, and those in nursing homes or hospitals and all the sick.

To add or remove parishioners, friends or family members to the prayer list, please send an email to: sr.mrparadis@archphila.org, or call Sister Mary Raphael, Parish Outreach Coordinator, at the Cathedral Parish Office, 215-561-1313 Monday through Thursday. Por favor envíe un email o llame a la oficina parroquial para añadir o remover los nombres de la lista de personas que estén enfermas.

Declaración de la Misión de la Parroquia Catedral de los Santos Pedro y Pablo

Con Jesucristo como nuestra Cabeza y Fundamento, la Parroquia Catedral de los Santos Pedro y Pablo forma una vibrante comunidad Católica Romana en el centro de la ciudad y sirve a todos aquellos que vienen a la Catedral Basílica, la Iglesia Madre de la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia. Nuestra comunidad parroquial profesa nuestra fe católica, ministra a los demás y da la bienvenida a todos, enraizada en la Palabra de Dios y la celebración de los sacramentos de Jesucristo, nuestro Señor y Salvador.

*Adoptado por el Consejo Pastoral
Parroquial, agosto 10, 2021*

BOLETIN INFORMATIVO

Oficina para Católicos Hispanos

[CLICK HERE](#)

<https://oficinahispanacatolica.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/November-Noviembre-2021.pdf>

**NADA SE
COMPARA
con estar ahí**



La Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia le extiende una invitación a todos los católicos a descubrir de nuevo el encuentro con Jesús en la carne el cual ocurre cada vez que participamos de la Misa en persona.

Para encontrar más información sobre esta nueva iniciativa, visite:

<https://archphila.org/nothingcompares/>

“Jesús se ha hecho a sí mismo el pan de vida para darnos vida. Noche y día, Él está ahí. Si realmente quieres crecer en el amor, vuelve a la Eucaristía, vuelve a esa Adoración”. Santa Teresa de Calcutta

SACRAMENTO DE LA RECONCILIACIÓN

Todos los domingos a las 12:00 PM en la Capilla de la Catedral.

BLOQUE DE FORMACIÓN

¿Qué es el Adviento?

Es el periodo de tiempo comprendido entre el cuarto domingo antes de Navidad y el día de Nochebuena. Sus colores litúrgicos son el morado y el rosa. Es un tiempo de espera para la segunda venida, así como un reconocimiento de que seremos juzgados por Cristo por nuestras acciones y decisiones. Por esta razón el Adviento es un tiempo de arrepentimiento; esperamos con alegría la venida de Cristo, pero también buscamos el perdón por nuestros pecados para poder estar preparados.

REFLEXIÓN DEL RECTOR

Estimados feligreses,

Hoy es el primer domingo de Adviento, el primer día del nuevo año litúrgico. En el Santo Evangelio (ver Lucas 21: 25-28, 34-36) en este primer día de Adviento escuchamos que nuestra redención está cerca. Este maravilloso anuncio nos ayuda a entrar en este tiempo santo con un enfoque en Jesús como nuestro Salvador y Redentor. Jesús nació en Belén para ir a la cruz en Jerusalén. Les animo a que no permitan que el Adviento sea simplemente un telón de fondo de todo el ajetreo y el bullicio de la preparación navideña. Más bien, escuchemos atentamente las Sagradas Escrituras y las oraciones en las Misas de Adviento con el oído atento a la instrucción del propio Señor para prepararnos mejor interiormente para que Él habite plenamente en nuestros corazones.

La Devoción Anual de las Cuarenta Horas se lleva a cabo este domingo, lunes y martes, los primeros tres días de Adviento. Por favor vea el inserto en esta edición del boletín parroquial para ver el horario completo de la Devoción de las Cuarenta Horas y la oportunidad de inscribirse para una hora de adoración. Esta devoción nos da la oportunidad de hacer una pausa, reflexionar y orar. Nosotros hacemos una pausa en el ajetreo de nuestras vidas y pasamos tiempo con nuestro Señor verdaderamente presente ante nosotros en su santo Cuerpo y Sangre. Reflexionamos sobre el don sin igual de Dios Todopoderoso, la Sagrada Eucaristía, el sacrificio salvador de su Hijo, que nos trae las constantes gracias de la redención. Oremos, adoremos al Señor, para alabarlo y unimos a Él mientras vivimos nuestra vida cristiana diaria. *¡Únase a nosotros para la Devoción de las Cuarenta Horas!*

Este lunes 29 de noviembre del 2021, los sacerdotes de la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia se reunirán con el Arzobispo Pérez para el Día de Santificación anual de los Sacerdotes en el Seminario San Carlos Borromeo. El Papa San Juan Pablo II llamó a esta reunión anual del obispo con sus sacerdotes para orar juntos y comprometerse con una forma de vida santa al servicio de la Iglesia. Se anima a todos los fieles a rezar por sus sacerdotes con la misma intención. Cuando el Papa San Juan Pablo II estableció por primera vez el Día de la Santificación, lo hizo junto con la Solemnidad de junio del Sacratísimo Corazón de Jesús. El sacerdote debe amar con el Corazón de Cristo a aquellos a quienes es enviado a servir.

El Árbol de Ayuda «The Giving Tree por sus siglas en inglés» está en marcha. Esta práctica de Adviento trae gran alegría a muchos de los necesitados en nuestra área en Navidad. También es posible participar virtualmente del Árbol de Ayuda enviando tarjetas de regalo para varias tiendas y comercios directamente a la Rectoría de la Catedral.

El próximo domingo, se distribuirán los calendarios parroquiales para el 2022. Le invitamos a llevar un calendario adicional para cualquier persona que conozca que esté confinada a su hogar en su vecindario.

El próximo domingo, la segunda colecta se dirigirá a la colecta nacional para el fondo de jubilación de religiosos. Puede enviar sus ofrendas dominicales a la oficina parroquial de la Catedral o hacer uso de las muchas formas de donar electrónicamente. Consulte <http://cathedralphila.org/donate/>. Muchas gracias por su bondad y generosidad con la Parroquia Catedral.

Dios te bendiga,
Padre Dennis Gill
Rector

**NADA SE
COMPARA
con estar ahí**



ADVENT GIVING TREE

Please participate in the *Advent Giving Tree!*



During the first weeks of Advent take a gift tag or tags. The gifts or gift cards may be dropped off in the **Sacristy** before or after Mass, or anytime during Cathedral visiting hours, wrapped and with the identifying tag on each gift **by the Third Sunday of Advent, December 12.** Gifts and/or gift cards may also be dropped off in person or mailed to the **Rectory office at 1723 Race St. Philadelphia, PA 19103.** This will allow for the distribution of these gifts for Christmas.

You can also donate on-line and just need to identify the gift for Advent Giving Tree on the subject line.

Thank you in advance for your generosity to the many men, women and children who will benefit from your kindness this Christmas.

Please do not leave the presents under the tree.



Advent Day of Reflection

Sponsored by the Office of Consecrated Life

Monsignor John M. Savinski

Saint Joseph in Advent

Saturday, December 11, 2021

Drexel Hall at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul
All are invited/lunch provided

RSVP: sr.gbraccio@archphila.org

215-587-37955

For more details go to:

<https://cathedralphila.org/advent-day-of-reflection/>

St. Joseph Speaker Series

December 1st at 7 PM

Dr. Kelly Anderson

will discuss St. Joseph's submission to God's will and how we can bring his virtues into our daily life

Small group discussion and Consecration readings will follow the talk

Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul | 1723 Race St. Philadelphia PA 19103

More details can be found at: <https://cathedralphila.org/events/young-adult-events/>

TODAY! ANNUAL EUCHARIST DEVOTION

Forty Hours 2021

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul and Shrine of Katharine Drexel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Sunday, November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

Clergy, religious and lay faithful of the Archdiocese are invited to participate in this year's 40 Hours Devotion at the Cathedral. It is part of Archbishop Pérez' Nothing Compares initiative, inviting the faithful to a renewed love for the in-person celebration of the Mass.

SIGN-UP FOR A HOLY HOUR:

[Click here to sign up for a holy hour time slot](https://cathedralphila.org/nothingcompares/) or visit [archphila.org/nothingcompares](https://cathedralphila.org/nothingcompares).

More information can found at: <https://cathedralphila.org/annual-eucharistic-devotion-forty-hours-at-the-cathedral-basilica-of-saints-peter-and-paul/>

Keys and Sword

A HOLIDAY KICKOFF PARTY

THE KEYS AND SWORD IS AN EFFORT OF THE MOTHER CHURCH OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA, THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL. WHAT BEGAN AS AN ANNUAL EVENT HAS TRANSFORMED INTO A YEAR-ROUND INITIATIVE ON BEHALF OF THE CATHEDRAL. THIS HOLIDAY KICKOFF PARTY WILL UNITE THE GREATER PHILADELPHIA BUSINESS COMMUNITY AS WE EXPAND THIS INITIATIVE TO YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TO BUILD CONNECTIONS AND SUPPORT FOR THE MOTHER CHURCH.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021

THE UNION LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA

140 S. BROAD STREET

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

With a word from:

Patricia (Trish) D. Wellenbach

President & CEO, Please Touch Museum

Chair, Thomas Jefferson University Board of Trustees

* Prior to the start of our event, we invite everyone to join us for Mass celebrating the Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 5:15pm at the Cathedral Chapel. Parking is available. If you are unable to attend the Mass, we will look forward to seeing you at our Holiday Kickoff Party.

TO REGISTER, VISIT [KSPHILA.ORG/HOLIDAY](https://ksphila.org/holiday)

Registration: \$10/person

This *Keys and Sword Kickoff Event* is designed to raise awareness about the needs of our Cathedral Basilica in the business community and to announce the annual event on June 24, 2022.

Everyone is welcome!

More information can be found at <https://ksphila.org/holiday>

The Cathedral of St Peter and Paul will be running a **blanket drive** for our Center City Community. We will be collecting both **New and Cleaned blankets** in white boxes at our Cathedral's entry ways on Nov. 20, 21, 27, and 28. We will be delivering these blankets on **Saturday, December 4th between Noon and 3 PM** at **Love Park**.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPICE



Saint John's Hospice is a Catholic Social Services shelter for men located in Center City Philadelphia. Established in 1963 by Monsignor Anthony J. O'Neill, Pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Church, and The Little Brothers of The Good Shepherd, Saint Johns was created as an outreach ministry to serve and assist the poor and homeless in the community. Saint John's continues to provide crucial, life-sustaining services with dignity, respect and compassion to homeless men in Philadelphia. Saint John's Hospice is an independent 501c3 agency associated with the charitable work of Catholic Social Services.

Programs: Residence for over 250 homeless men each year in St. John's Hospice & Good Shepherd programs; Case management, medical and counseling for all residents and day service guests; Mail Room for over 900 homeless men; 160 showers with clean clothing, underwear & shoes every week; Over 3,000 meals each week to homeless & needy men; Emergency shelter for 27 homeless men where they can receive a meal & bed every night.

Donate: Monetary donations: [//saintjohnshospice.org/](https://saintjohnshospice.org/)
Contact information 1221 Race St. Philadelphia, PA 19107
adicesare@chs-adphila.org (215) 563-7763

Spiritual Direction

Offered by: Sister Eleanor McCann, RSM, Pastoral Associate

Part 1 of 4: What is spiritual direction?

The experience of paying attention to God in the midst of my on-going daily life is one of great grace and of faith. This process of looking closely at life, making God an integral part, is one that takes deliberate practice and patience. How am I able to focus so closely on this invisible activity in the spiritual realm? What does this require of me, to be effective in my life? These important questions speak of one whose desire for God is sincere and of one who knows that God's activity within is for real, but wants more clarity about this holy relationship. That is where an objective and experienced listener can be of great benefit. A spiritual companion with whom one can speak freely about God as well as human issues is a tangible asset. This trained person is one whose focus is helping us to get to the main or core concern at this particular time in one's life.

Presently, I will offer some reflections on the nature of spiritual direction. During Advent, we will look more closely at what these sessions of about (50) minutes might look like. Sessions will begin in January 2022.

CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 3PM

The Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul will once again be performing our annual Christmas Concert. May we all experience the hope, joy and love of our Lord, Jesus Christ, throughout the Christmas season.

Purchase tickets [here](#),
or go to <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=MzNPhF>

EVANGELIZATION

"Be vigilant at all times..." *- Advent Series (Pt. 1)*

Without fail, the First Sunday of Advent always seems to catch most Catholic by surprise. The excitement that accompanies Thanksgiving and the preparations marking the beginning of the Christmas *Shopping* Season, spiritual preparations seem to take a back seat. The message of the Gospels each Sunday of Advent help to ground us not only for the remembrance of Christ's coming at Christmas but ultimately at the end of time.

"Advent" comes from the Latin word, "*advenire*," used to signify a "*royal coming*." The First Sunday of Advent follows the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This feast, in addition to celebrating Jesus Christ's kingship over heaven and earth, also brings to mind the moment when Christ will come again.

If we read through the New Testament, Jesus' second coming is one of St. Paul's and others' primary preoccupations. St. Paul encourages the Churches to whom he writes to prepare well for when Christ will return. For example, he writes to the Thessalonians: ***"May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones."***

In the Letter to the Hebrews, we read that Jesus came first for the forgiveness of sins. We live in the time following this first coming. Now is the time of mercy! This is good news; the heart of the Gospel message. Christ will come a second time. The second time he will come: ***"...not to take away sin but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await him."***

Advent is characterized in large part by the eager awaiting for Jesus' return at the end of time. To assist us in preparing for His return, the period of Advent puts us in the mindset of the Jews who anticipated Jesus' first coming in the flesh at Christmas. The four weeks are said to symbolize the four thousand years the nation of Israel anticipated *advent* of the Savior.

The means we employ around Lent can be a model for us as we anticipate Jesus' coming again. We might begin by making time for a good confession. Whether it has been a few months, a year (or several years), confession ought to be a frequent practice in every Catholic's life. By this Sacrament, the grace of our Baptism is renewed, especially if we have managed to mar that grace serious sin.

Making more time for prayer, especially prayer with the Scriptures for Daily Mass during Advent can also help us look forward to Jesus' Second Coming. The Word of God prepares us to meet the Word of God when he comes at the end of time and more immediately in the Eucharist. May this season find you vigilant and awaiting Jesus when he comes. ***Come Lord Jesus, Come!***

Fr. Matthew Biedrzycki

¹ 1 Thes 3:12-13

² Heb 9:28